Genealogical Society of
Washtenaw Co., Mich. Inc.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 NOVEMBER 1996

# WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

## KAREN'S COLUMN
## MoMS NEWS: ROUGH PLUMBING FINISHED, FRALEIGH TO PLOW SIDEWALKS, APPLYING FOR FEDERAL FUNDS

The photo shows Ella Grenier receiving the Golden Trowel Award from Ingrid Sheldon, Mayor of Ann Arbor. I mentioned this award in the October *Impressions*.

Unfortunately, the picture was not developed in time for that issue. Thanks again to Ella for her superb job in caring for the gardens at the Museum on Main Street.

Last month the rough plumbing was completed with installation of two vent pipes on the roof. Al Walk Plumbing, donor of our plumbing work, found out that coordinating a plumber, a roofer and a not-rainy day was not simple! They persisted, however. Now we can check *"roof vents"* off the list of work to be done.

Photo by Karen O'Neal

**Ann Arbor Mayor Ingrid Shelton (left) presents the Golden Trowel Award to Ella Grenier who keeps the WCHS museum garden beautiful.**

A copper drip edge is to be installed on the north side of the house. This will keep water from flowing over the siding as it sometimes does now.

Versile Fraleigh and Ann Arbor Snow Removal will be keeping our Main and Beakes Streets sidewalks free from snow again this winter. Their generous contribution of this service is very much appreciated. Thanks so much!

The Washtenaw County Historical Society is applying for federal historic preservation funds, distributed through the Michigan Department of State. Our application is submitted first to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. Given a favorable response from them, it will go to Lansing on November 30. We should know of the state's decision by mid-January. We are requesting funds for interior restoration work totalling $18,300.

The work to be done includes restoration of 13 windows ($1,300), trim repair ($1,000), trim replacement ($1,750), 2,200 square feet of plaster wall repair ($8,000), sheet rock for 1,500 square feet of ceiling area ($3,750) and restoration and sealing 780 square feet of wood flooring ($2,500).

Funds are awarded on the basis of a 60%-40% match. If we are successful, we could receive $10,980, with WCHS supplying $7,320. James Krupa, of Acclaim Construction, was very helpful in getting together the information necessary for this grant request.

Karen O'Neal, 665-2242

## WCHS, YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL STOCK 'STORES' ON HISTORY LANE AT BRIARWOOD MALL

The historical exhibit at Briarwood Mall in which WCHS and Ypsilanti Historical Societies are participating will be called *"History Lane,"* WCHS exhibit chair Karen Simpson reported.

It will look like four stores on a cobblestone street. The exhibit will be in a store space near center court back of Santa Claus.

The stores will bear historical business names. W.D. Adams Bazaar, dating to 1894, will have old fashion toys, Mack & Schmid, clothing, and F.K. Rexford and Sons, Ypsilanti, kitchen and housewares. A fourth "store" will have historical pictures of the local cities and businesses.

Display cases in back will serve as a museum gift shop where both groups may sell items. Among the note cards, dried flower mobiles, games and books will be *Historic Buildings, Ann Arbor, Michigan*, Second edition, of which our President, Susan Wineberg, is co-author with Marjorie Reade. There will be lots of great gift ideas for sale.

The exhibit opens Saturday, November 16 and will be open weekends only until Thanksgiving. Beginning Friday, November 29, it will be open daily. Hours are 4-8 p.m. weekdays, 1-7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

We need lots of volunteers to staff the exhibit and sales area. If you can help please call Pam Newhouse, 973- 1047.

## PEGGY HAINES TO GIVE TIPS ON USING COUNTY RECORDS FOR RESEARCH

Peggy Haines, Washtenaw County Clerk/ Register of Deeds, will give *"Instructions and Tips on Using Deed Records for Research"* at the WCHS meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 17.

The meeting will be in the basement of the Washtenaw County Courthouse at 101 East Huron Street, Ann Arbor. Free parking will be available in the Courthouse lot. Enter by the back door.

She will demonstrate methods and tricks used to access information from deed, mortgage and other records held by the county. Coffee and cookies will be served.

## NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 23

The next program after November will be February 23, 1997, at Bentley Library. Professor Russell Bidlack will tell *"The Story of Ann Allen, in Honor of Her 200th Birthday Anniversary."*

## WCHS HAS 96% OF KNAPP'S POINTS TOWARD GOAL

WCHS now has over 96% of Bill Knapp's Restaurant points toward more acid free materials to safely store textiles thanks to members and friends. Only 641 more points are needed to meet this goal.

Anyone who eats at Knapp's may request a yellow points slip from the cashier each time. One point is given for each dollar spent. Please give or send to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

## SEVERAL DONORS WILL CO-SPONSOR NEWSLETTER

Several donors have generously volunteered to help sponsor *Washtenaw Impressions* this year, President Susan Wineberg reports.

They are Kolossos Printing, Inc., GT Products (automotive parts), Meijer, Inc., Chi Systems (health care consultants), Neil's Printing and Strategies Marketing & Design (formerly Creative Ink).

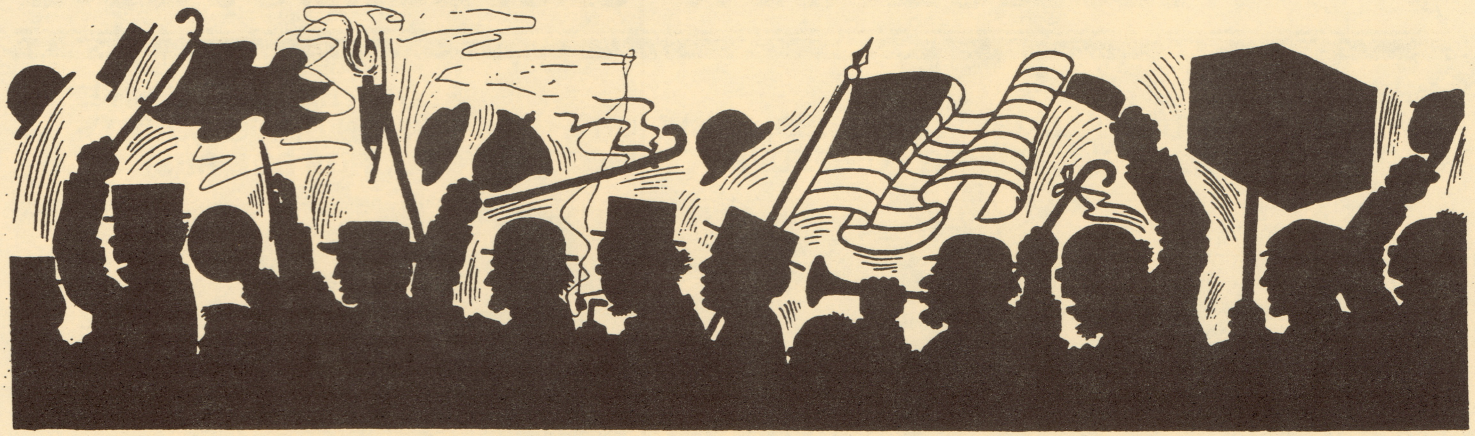
Other donors are ERIM (Environmental Research Institute of Michigan), UMI (University Microfilms), and Dennis Dahlmann of Dahlmann Properties. Thanks to all. We appreciate their help.

## FANS DONATE $5,180 TO MUSEUM ON MAIN ST.

The "Fan-a-Thon" fund raiser mailing in late August has been a big success. Fans of the Museum on Main Street have donated $5,180 to date. Many thanks, fans.

COLLECTIONS OF RECALL CAMPAIGNS OF YESTER-YEAR

# CASS FOR PRESIDENT, WE WANT WILLKIE, DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN



Courtesy of Douglas Kelley

Amid the 1996 presidential campaign WCHS met in the Gerald Ford Library to hear about the adventures of two collectors of campaign memorabilia of yesteryear.

One of Doug Kelley's favorite pieces is the famous headline, "Dewey Defeats Truman" on the Chicago Tribune November 3,1948.

Wendell Peterson's favorites have to do with the Wendell Willkie Republican campaign against Franklin Delano Roosevelt who was running for a third term in 1940.

David Horrocks of the Ford Library welcomed the audience and invited them to look over the Library's own exhibit of campaign memorabilia.

Mr. Peterson, an attorney and administrator for Parke-Davis Warner-Lambert , has one of the largest collections in the country of Willkie items. He is co-chair of the Wendell Willkie Chapter of the American Political Items Collectors (APIC) organization.

Dr. Kelley retired in 1990 from the University of Michigan-Flint where he was director of extension and continuing education. He is editor of *Democratic Spirit* for Democratic Political Items Collectors, another chapter of APIC.

How did they get started?

Wendell: You know my name is Wendell. You don't know I was born in 1940 and, as you might suspect, my parents say I was named after Wendell Willkie. I never quite understood that because they are both lifelong Democrats and Willkie was a Republican candidate.

I've been an accumulator since probably the age of 11. In the first Eisenhower campaign one of my joys was to run down to Republican headquarters and grab all the different "I Like Ike" buttons that I could. These laid in a box in a drawer until about 25 years ago.

At an Ann Arbor Art Fair there were some antique dealers under a tent near the Diag. I saw a button, "Wendell is our captain" and asked what that meant. The dealer said that's a Wendell Willkie button. I bought it. N o w , 25 years and about 4,000 Willkie items later, I guess I could be considered a serious collector.

Douglas: While working at the 1944 conventions as a youth I acquired enough material, not only buttons and badges but also sheet music, small posters and literature to fill some drawers for a number of years.

But when you are concerned with raising a family and making a living you don't have a lot of time to devote to a hobby, so it has been primarily in the last ten years, and especially since retirement that I have really been involved and now, like Wendell's, my collection includes thousands of items.

I have focused primarily on Democratic presidential nominees, both winning and losing. Some collectors collect state and local material, too, and that is endless.

Many collectors focus only on buttons and some just on celluloid buttons.

Celluloid buttons were invented in 1896 and there were some beautifully designed celluloid covered buttons in various sizes for Theodore Roosevelt and other candidates Some of those go these days for high prices.

My collection, like Wendell's, includes not just buttons and badges but dozens of different categories including license plate attachments, pipes, and even busts and statues.

I'm especially interested in posters because people enjoy looking at them in exhibits, usually more than they do squinting at little campaign buttons.

I have a collection of campaign biographies. In order to be considered such it has to come out before the election. If after the election it might be a fine biography but it's not a campaign biography.

To me it is especially interesting to see how he was described in the middle of the campaign whether it be former Michigan Governor Lewis Cass in 1848 or Willkie or any others.

Biographies, I think, are an important part of history. These days they include not only pamphlet and book forms. Every serious candidate for the presidency in recent years has put out video tapes.

Wendell: I would like to say that the Willkie campaign was probably the high point of citizen action and grass roots campaigning.

You have to remember that as late as 1939 Willkie was registered as a Democrat. He attended the 1924 Democratic National Convention as a delegate. At Indiana University he was president of the Jackson Society, a group of Democratic students.

How did a person of that background get the Republican nomination for president in 1940, running against people with a long list of Republican credentials like Robert Taft, Thomas Dewey and Arthur Vandenberg?

I like to think that one of the reasons Willkie was successful was because he was able to arouse an enormous amount of public interest in his candidacy beginning several months before the 1940 Republican convention.

Once he was nominated, supposedly the Willkie backers were successful in packing the galleries of the convention. The people in the galleries developed a chant, "We want Willkie" so loud and deafening that at points the chairman had to ask them please to be quiet so that they could carry on business.

At one point he said, "If you'll be quiet maybe you'll get him."

The grass roots interest in the WILLKIE campaign carried forward into the general election.

I have in my collection perhaps 200 buttons put out by individual Willkie Clubs all over the US. Many Republican candidates for governor, representative and US Senate saw Willkie as a popular candidate and liked to associate their name with his on various paraphernalia--things we collectors call coattails.

A button from Minnesota says "Willkie & Stassen," the perennial Republican candidate for president who at that time was Governor of Minnesota. At the Republican convention, Stassen was quite instrumental in gathering support for Willkie.

Another says "Elect Willkie, Willman and

Wallach" from an obscure little city in Missouri. They were candidates for prosecuting attorney and county judge.

Another pictures Willkie and a candidate for governor of Rhode Island named Vanderbilt. These local and coattail buttons are something I like very much.

Another thing I like are novelty items. There were a lot of buttons that played on his name--"I'm for Will" with a key hanging from the button. Others were "For President, Will-key" and "Watch Will-key Win.

Another interest that Doug and I share" are slogan buttons. I have about 500 slogan buttons. Some were quite upbeat--"Flash, My Children and Grandchildren Need You Willkie" and "Flash, Home Sweet Home with Willkie."

There were others that were somewhat nasty--"Dr. Jekyll of Hyde Park" referring to Franklin Roosevelt's home town and "Roosevelt, Hide at Hyde."

Then there are buttons related to the third term issue. Franklin Roosevelt was the first candidate for president to break the tradition dating back to George Washington that people would not seek a third term as president.

There were all these allegations that he was trying to create a dynasty, a royal family or a dictatorship--"No Franklin the First," "No crown for Franklin" and many others on a similar theme.

I also have a fair number of "shirt buttons"--the shape of a miniature folded man's shirt saying "I'd Give My Shirt for Willkie."

Douglas: The 1940 Roosevelt campaign did not do as many slogan buttons as Willkie but Willkie was a power company executive. A button says "Roosevelt in White House, Willkie in Powerhouse." Others say "Better a Third-Termer than a Third Rater" and "We Millionaires Want Willkie."

I have a lot of sheet music--some of you may have seen the exhibit at the Ann Arbor Public Library where I filled a couple of large cases with it.

My favorite, although it's not handsomely illustrated as many of the others, is the sheet music that was performed on Thomas Jefferson's inaugural day March 4,1801.

It was played repeatedly in Philadelphia where there was a large crowd of rambunctious supporters for Jefferson's Democratic-Republicans as they were called. They wanted a democratic republic and they were arguing that continuing John Adams in office would, instead, turn us into an aristocracy.

It says "performed at the grand procession at Philadelphia on the fourth of March 1801. On occasion, when we have visitors, my wife plays Jefferson's March on the piano.

These large posters are from 1904 when we Democrats had the hopeless task of running against Theodore Roosevelt. The same printer produced both. They are from Bellow's Falls, Vermont. Each party had a flag raising and band performing.

"The Democratic candidate against Theodore Roosevelt was the chief judge of New York State. He was a lackluster judge named Alton Parker. He did not have much success against perhaps the most charismatic president in

**Wilkie items courtesy of Wendell Peterson**

American history and some would say the most talented. He produced more books than even Woodrow Wilson and that was going some.

Another favorite item, the "Dewey Defeats Truman" headline, the most famous headline in American history, appeared only in the first edition of 30,000 copies.

Three or four years ago, at an antique show in Ann Arbor, I came across a middle-age man who said his father had worked for the *Tribune* and had brought it home and said, "You better hang onto this, I think it's going to be valuable."

## OLD TYPEWRITER GETS HIM POLITICAL JOBS

Dr. Douglas Kelley: When I was 15 I heard among my buddies in Chicago that both the Democratic and Republican conventions were coming to Chicago and if you were 16 you might get a job as an usher for the Democratic convention and the Republican convention needed Western Union messenger boys, 16 and up.

I was fairly tall and I had a beat-up old typewriter. I looked at my birth certificate and I looked at my typewriter. I said to myself, my typewriter makes the same sort of type as on the birth certificate.

So, all of a sudden, without my parents hearing about it, I was born in 1928 instead of 1929 and I assure you, that is the only corrupt thing I have ever done in politics. Social Security knows the truth.

The antique dealer was willing to sell me the whole issue. On the editorial page there were two letters to the editor that predicted a Truman victory.

One writer said, "I make no esoteric or clairvoyant claims. Neither do I need tea leaves. Wednesday morning November 3 it will be Truman reelected."

The other writer said, "Regardless of all polls taken, the Democratic candidate will be reelected November 2."

While Harry Truman was whistle-stopping across the country in that campaign, one of his staff sadly brought him the news that in a poll of fifty of the most prominent news analysts and correspondents in the country, all 50 of them predicted a Dewey victory.

"But Truman kept on campaigning. He thought he was going to win."

Here is a poster concerning a rather obscure political reporter who also thought Truman could win. His name was Wilson Ball. Here is Truman signing one of those posters and here are the press passes Ball used at the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia and the inauguration in Washington.

After winning the election, Truman boarded a train from Missouri to Washington. At St. Louis's Union Station he was met by a crowd of approximately 10,000.

From the rear platform of his private car he held up for them to see a copy of the early election night edition of the *Chicago Tribune* with the "Dewey Defeats Truman" headline. "That is one for the books, the President remarked as the crowd chuckled."

The competing *Chicago Sun Times*, a tabloid, was delighted to devote their entire front page to a picture of the huge mistake the *Tribune* had made. On the back news page, they said Truman in triumph bears no malice.

I once saw for sale in the Abe Lincoln Bookshop on the north side of Chicago a copy of that paper signed by both Truman and Dewey with comments by both. They had a very high price on it.

Wendell, where do you look for material?

Wendell: As I said, I found the first item from an antique dealer although, I must say, I have not found them to be a very good source. Most don't have a good understanding of the political collector market.

As a result, the $2 button they might have usually has a $25 price tag, but I still on occasion visit antique dealers because it's also true the $200 button also has a $25 price tag.

Nowadays there are three primary sources of material, One is from other collectors. Doug and I have traded. He's had Willkie materials and I've had FDR materials that neither of us could live without.

There are in the hobby two monthly newspapers. Both carry large numbers of ads for political materials. Especially when I was beginning, those were a primary source.

(Doug showed a copy of the *Political Bandwagon* which goes to all 3,000 members of APIC as does their quarterly magazine.)

As my collection got larger and it became harder to find things I would say nowadays my primary source is auctions.

There are in the US perhaps half a dozen people who make it a business to conduct 4-6 auctions each a year. These auctions contain only campaign material from all political campaigns. They are generally mail and phone bid auctions.

You can mail in a bid and the day the auction closes you can phone and find out if your bid is the high one or elect either to pass or raise the

bid by another ten percent.

Douglas: I enjoy going through antique malls and shops. I don't have patience to go to flea markets because its been my experience that usually there are tons of plastic gadgets and cheap hardware imported from overseas.

I have a lot more patience with antique shops, even though it's like looking for a needle in a haystack. When you walk in, tell the dealer you are interested in political material in all forms--you always mention that so he doesn't think you are just looking for buttons.

Frequently, they will say they don't think they have anything. I generally look around anyway because often they don't realize something is political. There may be a piece of political sheet music on the bottom of a pile or a campaign post card or something they had forgotten.

One of my most successful finds was in a large antique shop in Connecticut. They were primarily interested in furniture and architectural antiques.

I was on my way out the door when my eyes fell on a table covered with paper items and on top of the pile was a picture of a young John F. Kennedy shaking someone's hand.

The other man looks like he might be a small town alderman or ward leader. At the top it says "With sincere regards to my friend, Tom Jennings." It's signed Bob Lee. At the bottom it says "To Bobby Lee with my very best regards from his friend" and then there is an illegible signature.

I stood there remembering JFK's signature was often illegible. I asked how much is this. They said $25. Usually I engage in a bit of bargaining but I didn't then.

I discovered that, indeed, that signature was John Kennedy's. There is a Kennedy collectors organization I pay dues to and they're experts on Kennedy signatures.

From a Xerox I sent him, he said it's not like any of the secretarial signatures. Kennedy had a number of secretaries who were authorized to sign his name. It doesn't match any of the auto pens that I have, he said. I think it's authentic.

With his help, I discovered that Bobby Lee was a state senator in Massachusetts whose endorsement was very important to JFK in the Congressional campaign in 1946.

Kennedy had recently returned from war time service in the South Pacific. His father insisted that he run for Congress. He was heard to make a number of statements that he wasn't enthusiastic about the idea but he did it and he needed the backing of State Senator Bobby Lee to help make sure that he would win the Democratic primary.

This was in a district that was so wholly Democratic that winning the primary meant winning the election.

The afternoon before the primary election there was a very important Bunker Hill Day parade and JFK, still suffering from malaria and other illnesses, walked with his hat in his hand, instead of wearing it.

There was a hot sun and, at the end of the parade, JFK collapsed. He was carried to the home of Bobby Lee. I was delighted to discover who Bobby Lee was but I haven't yet solved the mystery of who Tom Jennings was, or why Bobby Lee, who had an inscribed picture of JFK, would give it away.

(Asked what the picture with JFK signature was worth, Doug sad it's bad luck for collectors to talk about that. Questioned further--hundreds? thousands? he said the latter.)

Another bit of good luck I had in an antique mall in Ohio was to notice in a glass display case a little seven-eighths inch button that said "Votes for Women, Indiana."

Photo by Douglas Kelley

**Some of Kelley's collection of political campaign materials from the Franklin Roosevelt campaign of 1936 against Alfred Landon are shown above.**

## FIND COMES FROM UNEXPECTED SOURCE

Wendell: It certainly couldn't be described as a major source but one of the most fun experiences I've had in accumulating Willkie material came from a very unlikely source.

My younger daughter who graduated from Michigan State University, discovered that her roommate's grandfather had lived across the street from Wendell Willkie. Of course, Dad got excited and asked her to ask her grandfather when she visited him if he might have something.

It turned out he had a collection of personal type photos--Willkie with his new bride, in his World War I uniform and so on that this person had taken when Willkie came back to his hometown of Elwood, Indiana. In August 1940 he came back to Elwood to officially accept the nomination for presidency.

So it's not a large part of my collection but those photos certainly bring back some nice memories. Just to think that my daughter was thinking of me although the word today that is most frequently out of her mouth with regard to my hobby is *"obsession."*

It was in 1920 that women throughout the country first got the vote. Elizabeth Cady Stanton had begun her battle for votes for women in 1848 so it took a long time to bring male America to its senses.

That little button turned out to be very desirable to collectors. There are some very serious collectors who collect only woman suffrage material and most of them didn't know there had been a button issued for just Indiana. It was a blue and yellow celluloid button.

As I was looking at it, the dealer, a young man, said I've got a bag of those. I swallowed hard and wondered how many were in the bag. After I had counted 50 I asked how much if I bought the bag? He said $100.

Among collectors the button was almost totally unknown. I was advised they were probably worth $100-$125 each. I put an ad in the *Political Bandwagon*, describing it and I said $85 postpaid.

The phone began to ring. My wife received a call from a lady who said I want to buy one for my daughter too. Will you sell me two? Another caller from California wanted to buy three.

That sort of thing doesn't happen very often. Usually your hobby soaks up all the available funds you have and then some.

Wendell: I left out another important source of materials. We've already talked about APIC and there are many sub-groups which specialize in a particular candidate or issue or whatever.

But there are also regional chapters. Virtually every month of the year these organizations put on a collector's show and bourse. You can imagine a fairly good size hotel ballroom set up with end-to-end tables and covering every single table is nothing but politically-related memorabilia.

Douglas: Often there are more than 100 tables. That's even more difficult to search through. At one of those shows Wendell came over to me and said there's a Lewis Cass letter over there when he was Secretary of State. I already had Cass's signature when he was Secretary of War under Andrew Jackson but I knew he was Secretary of State under James Buchanan so I hustled over and, thanks to Wendell, I did acquire that handwritten letter.

It was on rather mundane business. The Secretary of State in those days had a total staff in Washington of 17 people, all male.

Among collectors, the two presidents whose items are most sought after are Theodore Roosevelt and Harry Truman.

I'd like to mention some of the good museums. The best political museum in the US is in Hartford, Connecticut, under the wing of the University of Hartford. It's called the Museum of American Political Life.

The reason it is there is that a president of one of the insurance companies in Hartford had a lifelong collection. He let it be known

among his agents all over the country that the way to butter up the boss in Hartford was to send him political stuff.

I believe Doyle Dewitt is his name. I'm told that when he would go out of town for two weeks, he'd come back and there would be virtually a roomful of packages for his collection.

He donated those to the University of Hartford. It is a marvelous museum and it outshines the political collection of the Smithsonian where they will tell you they have no budget to acquire materials, they only have things that were donated.

The total exhibit of presidential campaign material in the Smithsonian would almost fit into this room and Wendell and I alone could fill this room 15 times over with our collections. The Smithsonian will tell you that they exhibit only about five percent of their political collection.

Here in the midwest, don't miss the Abe Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company for decades has been acquiring Lincoln material and their new museum employs marvelous audio-visual materials. It is very elaborate, very impressive.

## POLITICAL MEMORABILIA INCLUDES FLY SWATTERS

Wendell: We had some talk about the kinds of things that are available. They include bells, blotters, cigarettes, cigars, drinking glasses, paper weights, post cards, posters, ribbons, sashes, stationery, envelopes, banners. I even have a fly swatter in my collection.

The Chicago Historical Society also has some marvelous Lincoln and Lincoln-Douglas materials.

Wendell: There are also some nice collections of political materials related to presidents who came from Ohio. I just read a list of them in the *Toledo Blade*.

Douglas: Thinking of people who ran against Jerry Ford, I happen to be on a committee for a museum in Plains, Georgia which will be in the Plains Depot. Its a typical small town depot which served for many months in 1975-76 as the hometown headquarters of the Jimmy Carter campaign.

Already open in Plains is the former high school building where Jimmy and Rosalind both graduated and where you can see exhibits about their growing up in Plains, his going to Annapolis, his service on the school board, state senate and as governor. You can also see what he and Rosalind have done since the presidency.

The Jimmy Carter Library in Atlanta is comparable to the Ford Library and Museum. There are some great places to visit around the country if you are interested in this sort of thing.

Wendell: Asked about bumper stickers, he said the adhesive may be of more recent

vintage than 1940 "but I have hundreds of window stickers for Willkie."

Douglas: Predating window stickers were metal or sometimes plastic license plate attachments, beginning in the 1920s. They died out in the 1950s, replaced by bumper strips.

Wendell: I personally believe Willkie was more influential after the election campaign than he was as a Republican candidate. He and Roosevelt for some reason developed a real rapport.

There are many political histories that suggest that Roosevelt and Willkie were planning to attempt to establish a true liberal party in the US. Roosevelt was upset with Democrats in the South. Willkie was upset with isolationist Republicans in the Midwest.

Roosevelt called on Willkie in 1941 to be ambassador to the United Kingdom. In 1942 Willkie went around the world to visit various war fronts and foreign capitals. When he got back he wrote a book entitled *One World*, looking ahead to the United Nations.

That book, initially issued in a very limited edition, eventually sold almost seven million copies. Willkie, unfortunately, died in 1944.

I have a paper ballot from 1924 when Willkie was running as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. I collect any materials that relate to Willkie.

Doug has on his license plate "FDR-HST. I have on order a personalized plate that says "Willkie."

Douglas: I know of a few collectors who are especially interested in the candidate's earlier career. I tend to go into that. One of the things I was happiest to acquire was a broadside from the only campaign Truman ever lost. It was in 1924 when he was seeking his second term as Eastern District judge in Jackson County , Missouri.

Two years later he was elected presiding judge. In 1934 he became a US senator and in 1944 he became vice-president and the rest is history.

## UNWANTED OBSERVER

Douglas Kelley, wearing a hard straw hat calling for Roosevelt and Repeal (of prohibition, 1932)said "In our house we have two bathrooms, one of them a half bath. The half bath is called the political bathroom--I wouldn't want a bath or shower dampening my collection.

The walls are covered with memorabilia and the ceiling festooned with hats.

My Republican aunt from Colorado never enjoyed using it because, she said, "I don't like Woodrow Wilson watching me."

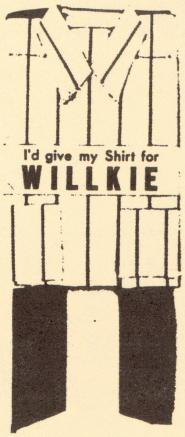
It's not easy to find things from Jefferson's and Jackson's campaigns, but I've found some, usually in paper form--newspapers supporting or opposing Jefferson and an 1801 edition of his book, *Notes on Virginia*, which has his inaugural address as an appendix, also a signed engraving of Jackson and handbills from the 1828 Jackson campaign.

One of the most exciting finds was in a barn in Marietta, Ohio, that had been turned into a used book store by a young man who pulled out of a drawer in an old desk a paper ballot from the 1828 Jackson campaign.

In those days, ballots were printed and distributed by political parties, not governmental units.

I have materials from all Democratic campaigns since 1800.

Wendell: Willkie's vice-presidential running mate was Charles McNary, a senator from Oregon. Willkie was president of Commonwealth & Southern, a utility holding company. They balanced the ticket with McNary who had a long history of supporting public power.




A button with the names Willkie and McNary is probably worth $2. A button with pictures of both nominees, perhaps as much as $150. A button or poster with pictures of both candidates is called a jugate.

Probably the most valuable button in the hobby is a jugate from the 1920 Democratic campaign when Cox was running for president and FDR for vice-president. There are probably 3-5 different Cox-Roosevelt jugates. The Cox campaign was underfunded and the supply is low. One of them sold for $50,000.

## FISH BITES MAN

"A.J. Sawyer (a local attorney) is nursing a sore thumb, the result of landing an 18-pound fish at Cavanaugh Lake yesterday.

"Mr. Sawyer was fishing in the shallow water near shore and had a splendid string to his credit when the monster pickerel nailed the hook.

"After several attempts the nimrod brought the fish to the side of the boat and reached over to catch him in the eyes, but ran his thumb into the mouth instead. However, Mr. Sawyer landed the finny prize and felt well repaid for his injury."

From *Ann Arbor Daily Times*, Wednesday, June 1, 1904.

## HOW TO JOIN

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to WCHS Membership, c/o Patty Creal, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336.

Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family, $25; student or senior (60+), $10; senior couple (one 60+), $19; business/association, $50; patron, $100. Information: 662-9092.

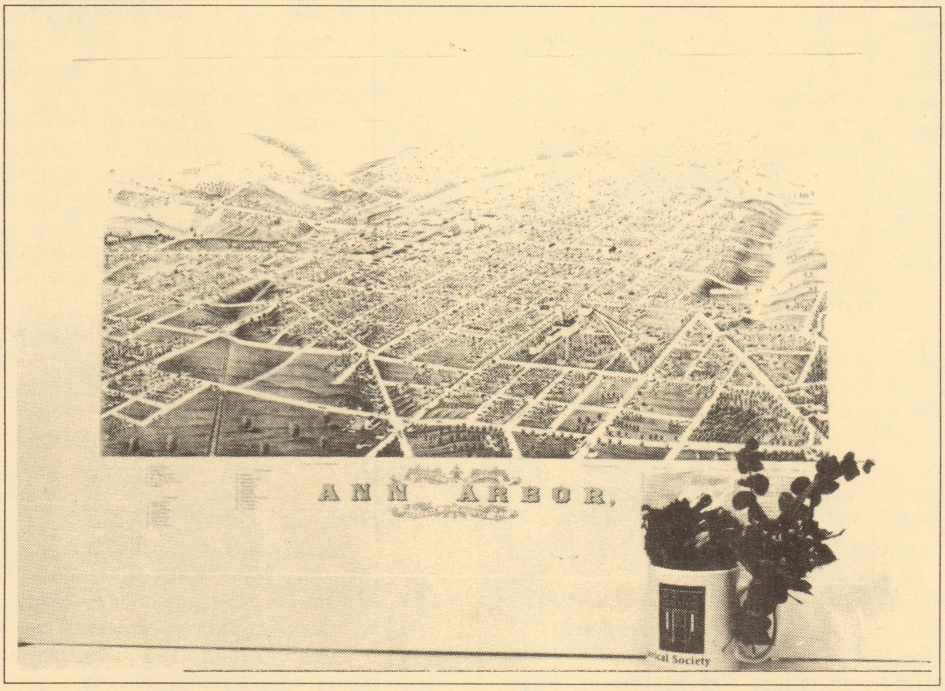
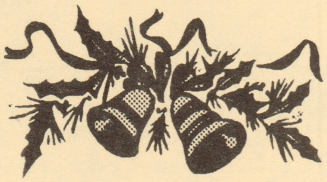



Photo by Caroline Mohai

**Among the gift items WCHS will have for sale at the display at Briarwood Mall will be an old birdseye view map of Ann Arbor and Historical Society coffee mugs filled with coffee beans and tied with a bow.**

**Other items include note cards, post cards, old-fashion games, and books including one on local historic buildings co-authored by WCHS President Susan Wineberg with Marjorie Reade.**



## 'BEFORE ELECTRICITY' LOAN BOX, 'WHAT IS IT? GAMES OFFERED BY WCHS

A new loan box for elementary students, *"Life Before Electricity,"* with lesson materials, illustrated with artifacts from the WCHS collection, is now available to teachers for $15.

The "What is it? games for children and adults continue to be offered free of charge. Information: Arlene Schmid, 665-8773.

*This issue of Washtenaw Impressions is co-sponsored by GT Products, Inc., 315 S. First St. Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

## NEW DIRECTOR NAMED.

Thomas Nanzig, archivist at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and a co-founder of the Civil War Roundtable, has been appointed director-at-large.

## AROUND THE COUNTY

***Dexter Historical Society:*** dinner and Christmas tree decorating party at museum, 3443 Inverness, Thursday, November 21. Annual Christmas bazaar Saturday, December 7. Carol sing at museum Friday evening December 13.

***Salem Society:*** 7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 21, at township hall. Patricia Waid Harteg will talk about *"Life in Salem Before and After World War II."*

Holiday gathering 1-4 p.m. Sunday, December 15 at home of Michael and Meroe Kaericher, 8171 Brookville Road. Carol singing. Bring unwrapped gift for a child.

***Saline Society:*** 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 20, at Depot Museum. Charles Finkbeiner will show a video about the Dynamic Kernels project.

***Ypsilanti Society:*** Annual holiday open house Sunday, December 8, 2-5 pm at museum. New Year Jubilee 6-10 pm Thursday evening at the Musuem. New Year Jubilee information: 483-4444.

## ARTIFACTS TO DONATE?

Anyone wishing to donate an artifact to WCHS should contact Judy Chrisman, collections chair, at 769-7859 or by mail, 1809 Dexter Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

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**WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

**WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**'HOW TO RESEARCH COUNTY RECORDS'**

**2 p.m. Sunday November 17, 1996**

**WASHTENAW COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

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